

Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.
(d.b.a.) Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2013, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
370 Hartford Avenue, Providence RI

Board Members in Attendance:

Mayor Angel Taveras
Brian Gallogly
Jeffery Williams
Betty Bernal

Others in Attendance:

Director Candidate: John Igliozi
School Staff: Morgan Carter, Ben Smith
AF Staff: Reshma Singh, Kelonda Maull, Ken Paul, Scot Kerr
Others: Jacquelyn Mancini, Toby Shepherd

Call to Order,

Mayor Angel Taveras called the meeting to order at 6:50pm. Quorum was established.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

Head of School Report

Ms. Carter gave a brief report on her priorities for the first six weeks of school and discussed positive outcomes for building great school culture, meeting their attendance goal of 98%, scholars reading at benchmark for proficiency and homework goals are being met at 98%.

Ms. Carter discussed the importance of positive staff culture and professional development and the metrics for measuring staff morale. She explained the organizational health survey measures for staff morale inside and outside the classroom. To this comment, everyone is working really hard and is very excited about the work and all staff members feel appreciated. School startup is very vigorous, but she explained her staff knows the hard work will lessen after a while.

She expressed excitement for “Parents as Partners” and the importance of keeping parents involved with their scholar’s education every step of the way. She mentioned a successful REACH circle event, which celebrates core values and families were invited to join. The event was very successful. She then opened for questions. Mayor Angel Taveras asked Ms. Carter about a recent scholar withdrawal in September. His concern was in regards to a family that left two days after the start of school. Ms. Carter and Ben Smith explained this family withdrew because the school culture was not best for their child. Ms. Carter continued to express that she works really closely with families who have concerns and takes every step to address their concerns directly. The Board discussed this more in depth.

Reverend Jeffery Williams left the meeting at 7:12 pm

Board Discussion & Updates

1. Code of Conduct

Ms. Singh gave background to the Code of Conduct and then asked the Board to review the Policy document and asked Ms. Carter gave a high level overview explaining it shows every behavioral code and explains suspensions. She then opened for questions. The Board had a discussion on this policy and they feel this document is overwhelming and hard to read and that it doesn't reflect grades K-2 scholars. After discussing, the board agreed the document will be amended to show adaptability for grades K-2 scholars expressing positive REACH values and explain the behavior system in an applicable and warm way.

Ms. Singh and Mr. Kerr will follow up and make sure changes are made. Ms. Carter explained, overall families understand the Code of Conduct and know Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy is a happy and positive school. The Board will review the entire Family Handbook.

2. School Leadership

Ms. Singh gave background regarding Ms. Carter's Principal in Residence Program at Bridgeport Academy in CT. She explained that Ms. Carter's CT certification is transferable to RI, but its completion this year would have required her to remain in CT past the opening date of the school which was determined not to be in the best interest of a successful school opening. Ms. Carter has been granted an extension to complete her certification in CT over the next year, and in the interim will serve as Acting Principal. Paula Shannon, who is certified in RI will serve as Supervisory Principal. Ms. Singh opened for questions.

3. Health & Wellness / Nursing / School Physician

Mr. Ben Smith updated the board on their need for a School Physician to manage the nurse and oversee all administration. Mayor Angel Taveras gave Mr. Smith a referral that is in Cranston, RI. Mr. Smith also let the board know he is looking for a consulting Dentist. He discussed referrals from the board which Directors will provide to Mr. Smith.

4. Jorge Elorza Leave from AF RI Board of Directors

Ms. Singh gave background on Jorge Elorza's leave of absence and let the Board know he will be on all communications for when he is ready to come back. Ms. Singh opened for questions.

5. Upcoming Events (Reshma Singh)

Ms. Singh discussed upcoming events with the Board. She mentioned the Opening Day Event for Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, Visitor Day, and Student Recruitment

Info Sessions for next year. The Board discussed ways to promote Visitor Days and Info Sessions more in depth.

Board Business

1. Election of Director: John Igliozi

Mayor Angel Taveras gave an introduction to Councilman John Igliozi, thanked him for his support of the school to-date. Mayor Taveras noted that the Councilman's efforts to locate AF Providence Mayoral Academy in Ward 7 were critical to eventual success, and expressed his support of the Councilman's candidacy as a Director.

- a. WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Achievement First Rhode Island shall be between seven (7) and twelve (12) members and the current number of Directors is eight (8)
- b. AND WHEREAS the Board of Directors desires to increase the number of Directors to include members with unique and relevant expertise
- c. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby elects Councilman John Igliozi to the Board of Achievement First Rhode Island to complete a term that expires annually on June 30th of each year.

Mayor Angel Taveras gave an introduction to John I. and discussed with the Board.

A quorum not being present, the vote on this resolution was tabled until a later date.

2. Adopt the Achievement First 403(b) Plan (Chairman Taveras to sign **Formal Record of Action, Morgan Carter to sign **Joinder Agreement**)**

- a. **RESOLVED:** That the Company hereby adopts the Plan that is sponsored by Achievement First, Inc. effective July 1, 2013;
- b. **RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the officers of the Company be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to take any and all actions and execute and deliver such documents as they may deem necessary, appropriate or convenient to effect the foregoing resolutions including, without limitation, causing to be prepared and filed such reports documents or other information as may be required under applicable law.

3. A quorum not being present, the vote on this resolution was tabled until a later date. Approve YTD Financial Report

Ms. Bernal discussed the Bylaws with the Board and discussed the budget.

- d. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby accepts the YTD financial report as presented.

4. A quorum not being present, the vote on this resolution was tabled until a later date. Approve Minutes

Mayor Angel Taveras asked the board to review the past minutes and approve.

- e. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby approves the 6/17/13 Meeting Minutes as drafted.

5. A quorum not being present, the vote on this resolution was tabled until a later date. Approve Code of Conduct

Mayor Angel Taveras explained the Board will approve the amended version of the Code of Conduct once revised.

- f. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby approves the code of conduct as drafted.

A quorum not being present, the vote on this resolution was tabled until a later date.

Adjourn

Mayor Angel Taveras adjourned the meeting at 8:10 hearing no other discussion.

Ms. Betty Bernal moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Brian Gallogly seconded the motion.

Minutes taken by: Kelonda Maull, External Relations